



File Code: 1950

Date: March 13, 2009

Scoping Notice

SSUSA Bike Race Special Use Permit

The Conasauga Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is seeking comments on a request for a special use permit which would allow a bicycle race on open Forest Service roads and trails in Gilmer and Murray County, Georgia.

Your comments and suggestions may be used to modify the specific methods described in the proposed projects. Please be as specific as possible when responding. Comments received, including names, become part of the project record and are available for public review. We would appreciate receiving your comments on the projects by **April 16, 2009**.

I intend to categorically exclude this proposal from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment because it falls under the intent of Forest Service Handbook Chapter 1909.15, Category 3 of section 31.2, "Approval...of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

Proposed Action

A SSUSA-sponsored individual has requested permission to conduct a 30-mile bicycle race on existing Forest roads and trails on the District. The event will begin and end at the Mulberry Gap Inn, a private facility in Gilmer County, Georgia. Chattahoochee National Forest system roads on the route are FR 18, FR 241, FR 90, FR 90A, FR 218, FR 78, and FS 49. Forest system trails proposed for use include FT 136, FT 3, FT 154, FT 176, and FT 78G. This one-day event is proposed for May 16, 2009. It is expected to last approximately 8 hours. Approximately 25-50 competitors are expected. There would be temporary checkpoints and aid stations along the route. The roads would remain open to vehicle traffic during the race.

This proposal meets Goal 31 of the Forest Plan, "Provide a spectrum of high quality, nature-based recreation settings and opportunities that reflect the unique...resources of the Forest and the interests of the recreating public..." (Forest Plan, p 2-31).

How to Provide Comments

You may send your comments and suggestions as follows:

Comment Format	Contact Information
Hard Copy Letter	Conasauga Ranger District Attn: SSUSA Bike Race 3941 Highway 76 Chatsworth, GA 30705
E-mail	lrthomas@fs.fed.us



	Subject: SSUSA Bike Race
FAX	706-695-1872
Phone	Larry Thomas, 706-695-6736, x 103

The electronic versions of the information provided in this scoping letter are available on the Forest's website at: www.fs.fed.us/conf/.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this project, please contact Larry Thomas, Resources Forester, at 706-695-6736 x 103.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Conasauga Ranger District.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michele H. Jones

MICHELE H. JONES
District Ranger

Enclosure: SSUSA Bike Race Permit Proposal Map